Morris Brownlee 12/18/67

Late yesterday afternoon I spent some time with Morris & John. Earlier I had spoken to them. In between I saw them with Jim Alcock. On the second interview I gave Morris copies of some of my documents that he wanted. He seemed to be quite quiet & composed himself. John had to encourage Morris to leave so they could keep another appointment.

According to Barbara Reid he later, after dark, appeared at her home somewhat distraught & looking for barbiturates.

Earlier, Morris had told me that Tommy Compton had not talked to me because he "didn't like me" because of what I had written of Ferrie, but that to a degree he also felt I had been more harsh than necessary. My reply was direct & hard - that I had gone out of my way to read what might be some good Ferrie had done, that my book was about the murder of a President, that Ferrie had threatened that President's life and appeared to be part of a conspiracy to kill him, and that did not call for glorification. Morris seemed to accept this. I told him Ferrie's appearance at Tommy's quarters when he was wanted &

exhausted was ample indication of the closeness of that relationship.

Morris & John say Layton Martens is still after them to drive him to Houma apparently to refresh his recollection. They seem to think Martens has some of Ferrie's papers and that they may be old papers relating to Carlos Marcello. Morris also reported a story that Ferrie is said to have blackmailed Marcello to get his gas station. He did not credit the story.

I wonder at Morris' mercurial moods & his ~~apparent~~ apparent unwillingness to grapple with his problems without the crutch of drugs. I am still satisfied he is holding out, although I soft pedalled that yesterday. I am beginning to get the picture of the man who he says he is trying to persuade to come forth. John Burns who thinks so. Says he is terrified. I tried to persuade both that only his silence confronts him with danger. I gather that there may be a different meeting than the one to which Perry Russo testified.